

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /032 W  
-----161452Z 064147 /45  
R 161308Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1313

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, IR  
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: FORER AND HORMCHA VISIT

REF: STATE 34720

1. FORER AND HORMCHA CALLED ON EMBASSY HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER (STEMPEL) FEB 16 TO DISCUSS THEIR VISIT. THEY SAID THEY HAD ENTERED IRAN ON TOURIST VISAS, AND EMBOFF STRONGLY URGED THEM PRESENT THEIR CREDENTIALS TO MFA IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOI REGULATIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISHED TO PURSUE RESEARCH IN IRAN. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, FORER AND HORMACHA SAID THEY HAD NOT CONTACTED STATE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO COMING TO TEHRAN BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY IRANIAN STUDENT GROUPS THAT THIS WOULD BE BAD FOR THEIR VISIT. HORMACHA SAID SHE HAD REPRESENTED IRANIAN STUDENT GROUPS IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. EMBOFF OUTLINED IRANIAN SENSITIVITIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AND DESCRIBED RECENT CONFLICT BETWEEN GOI AND AMNESTY WHICH CAME AS NEWS TO VISITORS.

3. IN CONTEXT OF BRIEFING ON IRAN'S POLITICAL SCENE, FORER ASKED WHAT EMBASSY WAS DOING WITH REGARD TO "LIST OF 18." EMBOFF EXPRESSED IGNORANCE OF "LIST OF 18" AND FORER SAID THEY WERE IRANIANS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER. HORMACHA SAID

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NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD WAS INTERESTED IN WHEREABOUT OF PRISONERS, WHO THEY WERE (CLAIM NAMES HAVE NEVER BEEN RELEASED), AND WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO DUE PROCESS. EMBOFF SAID EMBASSY WAS IN CONTACT WITH GOI ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AND PURSUED VARIOUS LEADS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. FORER ASKED WHAT SPECIFICALLY EMBASSY DID. EMBOFF REPLIED DETAILS ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES SHOULD COME FROM DEPARTMENT ITSELF. DEPARTMENT

HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM CONGRESS AS SECRETARY ATHERTON HAD DONE LAST SEPT. AND FURTHER COMMENT SHOULD COME FROM DEPARTMENT. FORER PRESSED SEVERAL TIMES ON DETAILS OF EMBASSY EFFORTS BUT ALWAYS IN FRIENDLY FASHION. EMBOFF CONTINUED TO PARRY WITH REPLY THAT DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING WAS TO CONGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND THAT FURTHER RESPONSE SHOULD COME FROM DEPT. FORER SAID USG NOW HAS MANDATE IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION TO DELVE INTO HUMAN RIGHTS IN COUNTRIES BUYING, OR RECEIVING AS AID, WEAPONS FROM U.S. EMBOFF REPLIED THIS LEGISLATION WAS NEW AND DEPARTMENT STILL FEELING ITS WAY ON MODALITIES AND BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES TO WHICH WE ALL AGREE. FORER SAID AMERICAN PUBLIC WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT WAS BEING DONE WITH RESPECT TO CIVIL RIGHTS INQUIRIES. EMBOFF RESPONDED COMMENT SHOULD COME FROM APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES.

4. FORER ALSO ASKED QUESTION WHETHER GOI HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY USG ON QUESTION OF SAVAK ACTIVITIES IN UNITED STATES. EMBOFF REFERRED FORER AND HORMACHA TO STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN COMMENT ON INVESTIGATION RE SAVAK ACTIVITIES.

5. MEETING BROKE UP ON FRIENDLY NOTE WITH FORER AND HORMACHEA INVITING EMBOFF TO LUNCH FOLLOWING WEEK. THEY AGREED TO GO THROUGH USIS CHANNEL TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION OF FOREIGN MIN FOR FURTHER RESEARCH. PAIR HAS ALREADY SEEN DR. KAZEMI, LEGAL DIRECTOR OF FORMIN AND DR. VAFAI, UNDERSEC IN JUSTICE MINISTRY WHO THEY SAID HAD BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING. FORER HAD ASKED TO VISIT PRISONS AND KAZEMI HAD REFERRED HIM TO US EMBASSY. EMBOFF SAID KAZEMI UNDOUBTEDLY WAS REFERRING TO PROCESS BY WHICH VISITORS WISHING TO DO RESEARCH MAKE THEIR WISHES KNOWN TO GOI.  
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6. MEETING WAS FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT, THOUGH PAIR REFUSED ACCEPT IDEA THAT INQUIRY INTO HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN IRANIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. FORER BUT NOT HORMACHEA SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE POSSIBLE IRANIAN SENSITIVITIES ON QUESTION. EMBOFF WAS NOT ASKED DIRECTLY TO PROVIDE FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON CONTACTS, BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED GROUP GET IN TOUCH WITH CHAIRMAN OF IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHT COMMISSION. FORER SEEMED RESPONSIVE TO IDEA.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009